

(12)
ARTICLES

To be inquired of by the
CHURCH WARDENS

AND

Questmen

OF

Every Parish in the next VISITATION

To be made by the
Right Reverend Father in God

J O H N

Lord Bishop of Clogher.

D U B L I N:

Printed by *John Crooke*, Printer to the Kings Most
Excellent Majestie, and are to be sold by
Samuel Dancer. 1667.



The form of the Oath to be taken by
the Church-wardens and Questmen in every Parish
immediately before their Presentments.

YOU, and every of you shall
swear, That you shall due in-
quiry, and true presentment
make, according to the Articles
given you in charge, of all such crimes,
faults, and defaults, as have been com-
mitted in your parish; And of all such
persons, as are or have been vehemently
suspected or defamed, to have committed
any such crimes, faults, or defaults.
You shall neither present any for hatred,
malice, or any other sinister respect, nor
spare any for fear, favour, or reward,
but discharge your Consciences, as men
fearing God, for the reformation of sin
and wickedness, and the advancement
of godliness and virtue.

So help you God.



CONCERNING
RELIGION
AND

CHURCH-GOVERNMENT.

I Mprimis, Do you know any that do refuse to receive or approve the Articles of Religion agreed upon in the Convocation holden at LONDON, Anno Domini, 1562. and received here in the Convocation begun at DUBLIN, Anno Domini, 1634. Or have you heard of any, who have traduced or spoken against the same?

2. Also, do you know, or have you heard of any person within your parish, that doth acknowledge any manner of obedience or subjection to be due to any Foreign power in causes Ecclesiastical: or that either by word or writing hath maintained, That the Kings power within this Realm of IRELAND, and all other His Dominions and Countreys is not the highest power under God, to whom all men by Gods Law owe all loyalty and obedience; and to no other Power or Potentate upon earth?



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3. Are there in your parish any, who have traduce & spoken against the prescript form of Divine Service contained in the Book of common Prayer: or against the form of consecrating and ordering our Bishops, and other Ministers: or have maintained that the Churches established under this Government be not true Churches: or do refuse to joyn with them in Christian profession.

4. Is the Lords day, and other holidays appointed by the orders of the Church duly kept and observed.

Concerning parish Churches and Chappels.

5. Is your parish Church or Chappel kept in due reparation; the windows well glazed, and the floors kept plain and even: and is your Church-yard well and sufficiently fenced, and maintained with walls, rails or pales, as hath been heretofore accustomed.

6. Have you in your said Church or Chappel a fair Communion Table, with a decent carpet, and a fair Linnen cloth for the covering of the same, a silver cup with a cover, and a sloop or flagon of pewter (if not of purer mettall) for the celebration of the holy communion?

7. Have you in your Church or Chappel two books of common Prayer (one for the Minister, and another for the Clerk) a Bible of the last Translation, the book of Canons agreed upon in the Convocation begun at DUBLIN, Anno 1634. and a Table of the degrees of Marriage prohibited by the Lawes of God.

8. Have

8. Have you a sure coffer, with three locks and keys (whereof one remaineth with the Minister, the other two with the Church-wardens) and a parchment book therein to be kept for the registering of every christening, wedding, and burial within your parish? And doth the Minister every Sabbath day, in the presence of the Church-wardens, record in the said book the names and surnames of all persons christened in the said parish (together with the names and surnames of their Parents) and also the names and surnames of all persons married or buried the week before, together with the day and year of every such marriage, christening and burial.

9. Have you a strong chest, with a hole in the upper part thereof (having three keys, to be kept as aforesaid) fastened in the most convenient place, that the Parishioners may put therein their alms for their poor neighbours?

10. Do you know of any that hath shed blood, or stricken, or quarrelled with any person in your Church or Church-yard.

Concerning Ministers.

11. Is the Benefice within your parish a Parsonage? Vicarage, or Prebend? who is the Incumbent there? What Tythes, Glebe-lands, or other rights or possessions are thereunto belonging? You are to bring a true note, or a Terrier of the same unto us at our said Visitation.

12. Doth your Parson, Vicar or Curate duly every Sunday, and holyday, and other times appointed, do his duty in reading distinctly and fully Divine Service, and (as occasion requireth) administering the Sacraments; according to the form prescribed in the Book of Common prayer.

13. Doth

13. Doth your Minister begin and end Divine Service at due and convenient hours? And doth he examine and instruct the youth of the Parishes? Sunday in the catechism set forth in the Book of common Prayer, for half an hour before evening prayer.

14. How many Benefices or Ecclesiastical Promotions hath your Parson or Vicar? and how far distant are they the one from the other? what Chappels hath he to his cures belonging? By what names are they called? and how and by whom are they served?

15. Doth your Minister preach frequently according to the canon in that Church where he is resident? and if not, do you know that he hath any just impediment for the same?

16. Doth your Minister teach any vain Opinions, Heresies, or Popish errors, disagreeing from the Articles of Religion generally received in the Churches of ENGLAND and IRELAND? And do you know, or have you heard any Preacher in the pulpit particularly impugn or confute any Doctrine delivered by any other Preacher in the same Church, or in any other near adjoining? or otherwise make any publick opposition unto him? And have you acquainted the Bishop of the Diocess therewith?

17. Doth your Minister or Proprietary (if the Benefice be impropriate) allow a competent maintenance to the Curate who supplieth that charge? and what doth he allow him? Is the Curate licenced by the Bishop? and how many Churches or Chappels doth he serve in one day? and how far distant are they one from the other?

18. Hath your Minister denied or neglected to visit the sick, or to christen or bury any, when he hath been lawfully and conveniently required therein?

19. Hath

19. Hath he married in any other place, save in the face of the Church, and at any other time, then betwixt the hours of eight and twelve in the forenoon?

20. Doth your Minister give warning publickly in the Church at morning prayer, the Sunday before the Communion is to be administered; to the end the Communicants may the better prepare themselves thereunto? or hath he admitted any known impenitent notorious offenders to the participation of the same? And doth he celebrate the holy Communion so often, that every Parishioner may receive thrice in the year at the least?

21. Hath he admitted any to be married, or to be Godfather or Godmother at the Baptism of any childe, or to receive the holy Communion, before they can say the Articles of the Catechism, the Lords prayer, and the ten Commandments, in such a Language as they understand? or before they have received confirmation according to the Rite of the Church?

22. Doth your Minister confer with Recusants within his parish, to see to recal them from their ignorance and errors: Is he of a good and sober conversation; or otherwise, doth he give himself to any base or servile labour, to playing at dice, cards or tables, or any other game unbecoming his function? Is he a common resorter to Taverns or Alehouses, a great drinker, a Simoniackal person, a known Usurer, a quarrellous or contentious person, or otherwise defamed? doth he also go gravely and decently in his apparel, according as the Canons do prescribe?

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Concerning the Parishioners.

23. Are there any in your parish, who are suspected to be of no Religion, meer Atheists, not adhering to any Church: or any that do wilfully maintain and defend any heresie, error, or opinion contrary to the word of God: and have any gone about to seduce others from the truth of Religion taught and professed in our Church, or spoken slightly or disgracefully of any ceremony or Rites established by Law in this Church of IRELAND.

24. Are there in your parish any, that (in contempt of their own parish church) do resort to any other Church or Chappel:

25. Are there in your parish any, who upon the Sunday, or other allowed holy days, do use their manual labour: or any that buy or sell, or frequent Taverns or Ale-houses in time of Divine Service, and preaching, upon those days, and at those times:

26. Is there in your parish any, that hath disturbed or hindered the Minister, in the time of Divine Service or Sermon, or otherwise offended the people by walking, talking, laughing, or any other noise, unseemly gestures or clamour: Or that bring to the Church with them Babes with bells, or ill nurtured children which cannot be kept quiet in their seats without running up and down:

27. Have there any Bastards or base begotten children been born, or are nursed within your Parish, since the last visitation: present the names of the reputed Parents.

28 Are.

28. Are there any in your parish that live together as man and wife, and yet are vehemently suspected not to be married, or to have another husband or wife?

29. Are there any in your parish, who being under the government of their Parents or others, have made privy contracts of Marriage; not calling thereunto two or more witnesses, nor having the consent of their Parents or such others under whose government they are?

30. Are there any in your parish married within the degrees prohibited? or without their Banns thrice solemnly published in their parish Church, upon three several Sundays or Holydays? or a Licence first had from the Ordinary or Judge of the Faculties? or at any other time, than between the hours of eight and twelve in the forenoon?

31. What married persons in your parish have been divorced, and since married with others, for these three years last past; by whose sentence were they divorced, and by whose licence? and by whom were they so married? Declare your knowledge in the premises, and what you have credibly heard, and present those who have so sentenced, licenced or married without due authority.

32. Are there any in your parish which are excommunicated? and how long have they stood so? Are there any who are reputed, or known to be common Drunkards, Swearers, Blasphemers, Incestuous persons, Adulterers, Fornicators, Bawds, perjured persons, Extortioners or oppressors, common scolds, Brawlers, Slanderers, Wake-bates, sowers of discord between party and party, especially between man and wife? Or that have used Charms, spells, sorcery or Witchcraft; or are guilty of any other notorious offence belonging to Ecclesiastical cognizance, or are suspected or defamed to be guilty of the same?

33. Hath any person within your parish contemned, or abused by word or deed, any Minister of the Church?

34. Do any in your Parish deny or detain their payment duly rated towards the reparation and furnishing of the church, or any other necessary pious use?

35. Have any within your parish meddled with the goods or chattels of parties deceased, without licence first had by letters of administration, or otherwise from the Ordinary?

36. Do you know in your parish any Executors of the goods of persons deceased, that have detained any Orphans goods, or Legacies bequeathed or appointed for the repairing of Churches or high-ways, finding of poor scholars, marrying of poor maidens, or such other charitable deeds; and not employed the said goods or legacies according to their authority given and charge enjoined?

Concerning Parish-Clearks, Ghurch-Wardens and School-Masters.

37. Is your parish Cleark of competent age and skill for the executing of his office? Is he resident, and doth he diligently perform his duty in his own person? Is he conformable to the orders of the Church, and of honest life, and sober conversation?

38. Were your Churchwardens and Sidesmen duly chosen at the time, and after the manner appointed; namely, upon Monday or Tuesday in Easter week, by the joynt consent of the Minister and Parishioners; or otherwise, the one by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners? And were they sworn the next Consistory day after their election before the Bishop or his Chauncellor? Or are there any so chosen, who have refused to undertake that Office?

39. Have

39. Have the former Church-wardens, at the going forth out of their Office, given up a true account of what moneys they have received and disbursed? have they brought in a Register of all christenings, marriages and burials, within the year of their office; that the same may faithfully be preserved in the Bishops Registry?

40. Do the Church-wardens, with the advice and direction of the Minister; provide against every Communion a sufficient quantity of fine white bread, and of good and wholesome wine for the number of the Communicants that shall from time to time receive? And do they perform all other duties, as well in the Church as without, required of them by the Canons and constitutions of the Church?

41. What School-masters or Masters have you in your Parish, who teach School either publicly or privately without Licence; and by whom are they harboured?

42. Is there in your parish any other matter or cause of the cognizance of the Church, above not expressed, worthy presentment in your judgement? if any such matter or cause there be, you are charged likewise to present the same, as you are the rest, by virtue of your Oath.

F I N I S.